

3497
DEDICATED TO THE
FIRST LORD OF THE ADMIRALTY,

AND

PUBLISHED FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE
WIDOWS AND ORPHANS

*Of the BRAVE SEAMEN who have fallen in the glorious Contest in
which the Nation is engaged.*

A

S E R M O N

PREACHED IN THE CHAPEL

In HIS MAJESTY'S DOCK-YARD, at PORTSMOUTH,

On THURSDAY the 29th of NOVEMBER, 1798,

BEING THE DAY APPOINTED BY

His Majesty's Royal Proclamation

FOR A

GENERAL THANKSGIVING TO ALMIGHTY GOD,

FOR THE

LATE GLORIOUS VICTORY

OBTAINED BY HIS MAJESTY'S SHIPS OF WAR

UNDER THE COMMAND OF

REAR ADMIRAL LORD NELSON of the NILE, &c. &c.

By the Rev. TUFTON CHARLES SCOTT, S.C.L. *R*

CHAPLAIN IN ORDINARY TO HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCE OF WALES,
AND OFFICIATING CHAPLAIN TO HIS MAJESTY'S DOCK-YARD,
AND THE ORDINARY AT THAT PORT.

*The tree stripped of its branches, and its root assailed, no longer glads the face of
Nature, but mars her beauty, and seems to court the axe; so man bereaved of freedom, virtue,
and the social ties, drags on a life of sorrow and contempt, or sinks a victim to the Spoiler's
rage.*

L O N D O N:

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1798.



TO THE
RIGHT HONORABLE
EARL SPENCER, &c. &c.

MY LORD,

IMPRESSED with the highest sense of your Lordship's publick and private Virtues, and sensible of the advantage which must derive to myself in my professional life from the countenance of a Nobleman, no less distinguished in private life, for a display of those duties which evince the sincerity of our *Christian Profession*; than for the appendages of Rank and Fortune; and moreover, considering your Lordship in your publick situation as presiding at that Board, on which I am dependant in the situation which I have the honor to fill at this place, I have presumed to solicit your Lordship's protec-

tion to a production, which I send into the world at the request of my Congregation.

Having spent the greater part of my life in the active service of my Country, in a Profession whose duties and habits were not congenial to study, I can have no pretensions to literary acquirement ; nor can the Discourse in question have any merit of that kind ; and all the applause I can possibly expect, or wish for, has been amply bestowed, and gratefully received, in the approbation of those whom I serve in the LORD, and who claim the duty of my professional labors.

If there be any thing in the language, or thoughts, or manner of expressing them, that has impressed the mind of any of my hearers with the principles of piety and virtue, so far as to improve the heart, or produce amendment of life ; the great end of my Ministry, as far as relates to the individual, is answered ; and I am thankful.

That

That I have been so enabled to arrange my thoughts, and give utterance to them, is owing to the assiduous attention, the able instruction, and the edifying conversation of a friend in holy orders, who directed and assisted my studies during a few years of Retirement, after I quitted my former Profession ; and who is now Vicar of a small Parish* in a retired situation, with a salary of only 50l. per annum : a man, whose profound abilities, and extensive learning—whose industry, piety, and exemplary life entitle him to a better reward than this poor tribute of gratitude and esteem.

What I have said, will I trust be a competent apology for the insufficiency of the production, to the learned among my fellow labourers in CHRIST, and to others possessed of candour and Christian Charity; the opinion of those who are capable of being actuated by any other principles, I have through life professed my contempt for.

* Cherflow in Devon.

But I beg your Lordship's pardon for having transgressed so far ; and will only add, that as a mark of my gratitude and regard to my former profession, I make the trivial offering of the profits (if any) arising from the sale of this Sermon, to the Widows and Orphans of those brave Seamen who have fallen in the glorious contest in which we are engaged ; and on their behalf, as well as my own, I again presume to solicit the condescension of your Lordship's protection,

and am with all possible respect

YOUR LORDSHIP'S

dutiful and obedient servant,

TUFTON C. SCOTT.

A S E R M O N.

ST. MATTHEW VII. 24, 25.

*“ Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine and doeth them,
“ I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon
“ a rock: and the rain descended, and the floods came, and the
“ winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it
“ was founded upon a rock.”*

THE last melancholy occasion of our being assembled here, in pursuance of the Royal Proclamation was for the purpose of deprecating the vengeance of ALMIGHTY GOD upon the sins of this Nation, then shuddering on the brink of misfortune, and trembling under the uplifted rod of correction.

At that time, neither the wisdom of our Rulers; the conduct of our Commanders; the courage of our Fleets and Armies; or the

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uncommon

uncommon exertions of the Civil Power, seemed to promise us any security from the baneful influence of Principles which would have disgraced the Pagan World.

Rebellion had reared its standard, and the horrors of civil war had begun to spread desolation and misery in one part of these dominions; the effects of luxury and dissipation had produced symptoms of approaching want among the middle orders of people; the increase of our cattle had been insufficient for the required consumption, and the harvests had been unproductive; so that the sweat of the Labourer's brow no longer produced to his endeared family the means of contentment, and the fostering hand of Charity became necessary to his support.

Contagion had spread its dire effects among our Countrymen in foreign Climes, had cropt the bloom of Britain's Pride, raised the helpless Orphan's cries, and caused the Widow's tear to flow.—The sword of an implacable, licentious, and unprincipled Enemy had spread desolation far and wide, who, not yet sufficiently glutted with mischief, was collecting every means, that Malice could devise, or Power could command, to aim its last blow at the destruction of this Nation: all Europe, panick struck, appeared quiet spectators of our approaching fate.

At

At this awful Crisis, our gallant Chiefs and Heroes rallying around the standard of Religion and Liberty, maintained their wonted Empire on the seas; our Troops prepared to guard our coast; and our private Citizens armed to preserve domestic Quiet: thus, prepared to meet the dread event, our pious and good Sovereign called upon his People to acknowledge their transgressions, to make atonement for their sins; to seek the Lord while yet he might be found*; and thou, Lord, hast not forsaken them that seek thee†. For behold the contrast in the more joyful occasion of our present meeting;—the late Blessings vouchsafed to us, by the Providence of that GOD whom we profess to worship and to fear.

Health and plenty restored; the standard of Rebellion fallen, and the spirit of it nearly subdued; the fallacy of those wicked Principles which have enslaved half Europe, and seduced the hearts of our fellow subjects from their duty and allegiance, has been effectually exposed; and the minds of men recovering from the infatuation of modern Philosophy, more wicked in itself, and more mischievous in its effects than Pagan Idolatry, begin again to seek, in the calm of subsiding agitation, the Peace of GOD, in the Liberty of CHRIST, and the Return of social Order.

* Isaiah lv. 6. † Psalm ix. 10.

The increase of our flocks and herds has dissipated the dread of want ; and the plentiful produce of our harvests has restored his frugal comforts to the contented Cottager ; the flourishing state of our trade and commerce has added an accumulation of wealth to the Nation, and strengthened the sinews of war.

And while, thus, the clouds drop fatness, and plenty crowns the year*, our Troops are victorious ; and our gallant Sailors by deeds of prowess, of professional skill, and undaunted courage which exceed the power of Praise, and shine without a parallel in history, have annihilated the Maritime Power of the enemy, and crushed even in the bud, their mad projects of violence and ambition.

Wondering Arabs see their tutelary Genius float on Britain's Prow : remotest Nations view, and admire the Wisdom of her Councils, in the Valour of her Sons : the Powers of Europe emulous of their glorious example, are roused from apathy and despair, and resume their wonted Magnanimity ; and Hope again portrays the dawn of Peace, in the chastisement and destruction of a People, who denying God, has avowed itself the enemy of every thing that can adorn or dignify his Creation ; every thing worthy the acquirement or the possession of Man, Religion, Liberty, Law. So that, in the words of the Prophet

* Psalm lxxv. 11.

Ifaiah*, we may juſtly exult, and ſay, “ Sing unto the LORD a new ſong, and his praiſe from the ends of the earth ; ye that go down to the ſea, and all that is therein ; the iſles and the inhabitants thereof : let the wilderneſs, and the cities thereof, lift up their voice, the villages that Kedar doth inhabit : let the inhabitants of the rock ſing ; let them ſhout from the top of the mountains ; let them give glory unto the LORD, and declare his praiſe in the iſlands.”

It is for this laudable purpoſe that, in all due humility, and in obedience to the command of our King and Governor, we are again aſſembled here ; and callous indeed muſt be the heart of him, who can hear all theſe ſignal mercies vouchſafed his Nation, recounted before him, and withhold the tribute of gratitude due to the all-diſpenſing Power.

But, to the heart warmed with religious fervour, inſpired with gratitude and love, nothing need be urged to animate its piety, or call forth its zeal ; the ſecret thought will bear, on ſilent wing, its ſacrifice of prayer and praiſe ; and Heaven’s Majeſty, bending from the throne of mercy, will receive, through mediating Power, the pleaſing incenſe. To expatiate further on the duty of Thankſgiving, would add nothing for the purpoſe of inſtruction or information ;

* Ifaiah xlii. 10.

much less could it tend to exalt the praise of GOD, who even out of the mouths of babes and sucklings has perfected Praise *.

I shall therefore endeavor to improve the present opportunity to the purpose of laying before you a display of those principles, the profession and practice of which can alone entitle us to hope for a continuance of those blessings which are the subject of our Praise and Thanksgiving at this time; and to which purpose the words of the text are peculiarly applicable. "Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock; and the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not; for it was founded upon a rock."

If we reflect upon the present state of society, the condition and circumstances of the world; there never, perhaps, was a time when men stood more in need of the salutary doctrine contained in this observation of our Savior's, than the present.

When the minds of men are ardent in the pursuit of speculative knowledge; and the passions and affections agitated by the continual influx of new, strange, and contradictory systems. When human

* Matthew xxi. 16.

Philosophy, at best but the vagrant child of wandering Parents, fostered by one generation, discarded by another, and idolized by a third; has in these days assumed to itself the Power of GOD, eclipsed the glorious light of the Gospel of CHRIST; blinded the minds of them which believe not *, and rendered instability yet more unstable.

In this scene of mental confusion, and willing blindness, it is perhaps owing to the little pre-eminence which we have preserved in Godly Wisdom and Christian Knowledge, that the ALMIGHTY has vouchsafed to make us the objects of his peculiar care. And if thus, haply, our Nation has found this Rock of Salvation, whereon to build its defence, let us not despise the structure which our forefathers have raised; or deem the Edifice superfluous, because the proud Infidel boasts his existence without its pale: rather, let us examine his pretensions to this vain boast, and see wheron he rests his hope.

We have seen indeed, Persecution descend like rain on this building, the Church of CHRIST; we have seen Schism and Dissention surround it, like a flood; we have beheld it assailed, by the storms of Fanaticism and Error; and struck with the blast of Scepticism and Infidelity, and it fell not; for it was founded upon a Rock.

2 Cor. iv. 4.

But

But where is the proud temple of the Heathen Gods? Where the idolatry and superstition of former ages? where the Antichrist? or, where the splendid altar raised to Modern Philosophy? adorned with the choicest productions of Science, Genius, Taste, and Eloquence; inscribed with the names of SHAFTSBURY, VOLTAIRE, GIBBON, ROUSSEAU, PRIESTLEY, and a long list of others; whereon has been sacrificed the blood of Kings, the wealth of Nations; and all that is dear or valuable to Man; his present Virtue, and his future Hopes.

All these, from the golden Calf on Horeb, to the fancied Rights of Man, are vanished and gone; or prostrate at the foot of better Knowledge: built upon the sand, they have slipped from their foundation whenever they felt an attack, and born away before the breath of Truth, have left no trace behind them, but the desolation and misery which they occasioned. Among all the Nations where the light of Revelation has shone, the doctrine of MAHOMET alone remains in any regular and systematic opposition to the Church of CHRIST; and this, permitted in the dispensation of Providence for causes, or with a view to effects, beyond the reach of human inquiry; and maintained, as it was first established, at the point of the sword, over an unenlightened, sensual, and desponding race of men.

Having thus observed of the systems built upon the different foundations, according to our Saviour's comparison in the text, let us recur to those sayings of his which he exhorts his followers to hear, and to do : " Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man."

The wisdom of a virtuous and religious life has been evident to the understandings of good men in all ages ; and great have been the efforts, arduous the toil of some of them, even among the Heathens, to attain this wisdom ; and their Philosophy, though mixed with the Idolatry of their Nations, was much less mischievous, than that of our days ; nay, considering the age and circumstances under which they lived, it was highly praise-worthy ; it was a noble effort of reason to free itself from the shackles of superstition and doubt ; a glorious endeavour to " seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him and find him*."

Some of their systems of morality do the highest honor to their principles and ability ; they embrace many of the Christian Virtues, and remain to us as valuable specimens of the meridian powers of the human mind, when unassisted by the light of Revelation. But

* Acts xvii. 27.

yet, these great men were but as lights shining dimly before a people who walked in darkness, and dwelt in the land of the shadow of death* : the times of this ignorance (the Apostle tells us) GOD winked at ; but now commandeth all men every where to repent †. Now, that the day spring from on high hath visited us, to give light to them that sit in darkness, and the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace ‡. Now, that we have the sayings of CHRIST always before us ; sayings replete with wisdom, with mercy, and goodness.

They unfold to the mind of man all that is valuable in Knowledge ; they teach him why he is, and who he is ; his origin, and the end of his existence ; teach him the true value of earthly things, that he may learn to despise them ; declare to him the Glories of Heaven, and the way to attain them ; lead him step by step to an acquaintance with his GOD, and enable him even in this life, to anticipate eternal Joy.

In Mercy they forewarn him of the dangers and difficulties which will attend him in his journey through this state of trial and probation ; they furnish him with the history of his mortal enemy, disclose to him all his wiles and artifice ; his inveterate malice, his unceasing

* Isaiah ix. 2. † Acts xvii. 30. ‡ Luke i. 78.

affiduity, his perpetual attack ; they point out to man the weak parts of his own nature, and shew him where he is most liable to the impressions of evil ; they arm him with the weapons necessary for his defence ; and furnish him with histories and examples, as well of Fortitude and Courage, as of Treachery and Cowardice, and declare the fatal consequence of sin and disobedience.

In Goodness they apprize him of the history of his Redemption ; unfold to him the mysterious Love of CHRIST ; make him acquainted with the promises of eternal Life and Happiness ; and display the means of attainment, through Faith in CHRIST, and good Works. What these good works are, the words of our SAVIOUR explicitly declare ; and moreover add the Promise of his Holy Spirit to assist and confirm our serious and hearty endeavor to perform them.

Thus, blessed with transcendent Light, supported by Divine Aid, and inspired by the hope of so glorious a Reward, shall Britain's Sons, valiant and brave on Earth, the admiration and the dread of Nations, forget their Christian Calling, and forsake their GOD, the Source of Power, the Prince of Glory, and the LORD of Life ?—Forbid it, Heaven ! for in that very day their thoughts perish, (but) happy is he that hath the GOD of Jacob for his help, whose hope is in the LORD his GOD.*

* Psalm cxlvi. 4.

Be it then our care to insure this help by a constant and ready concurrence with the Will of GOD ; and let us remember that his commandments reach every description of men, and extend to every rank and condition of life ; they equally adorn the Cottage, or embellish the Throne ; and disobedience is equally fatal to both.

Let the lower orders of the People, and those whose doom it is more particularly, (for it is in some sort the doom of all Mankind) to eat their bread in the sweat of their brow, remember that “the lot is cast into the lap ; but the whole disposing thereof is of the LORD*.” Their’s is appointed them of Heaven, and the duties of it required at their hands, in the doing whereof, CHRIST himself hath assured them that they shall in no wise lose their reward†.”

And so, from link to link, throughout the chain of Society, each situation has its appropriate duties required at the hands of those who fill it ; and no one is permitted to hide in the earth the talent entrusted to his care‡.

But particularly it pertains to those who fill the higher stations of life, those to whom the ten talents are entrusted, by their practice, as

* Proverbs xvi. 33. † Matthew x. 42. ‡ Matthew xxv. 25.

well as by their authority and influence, to convince men of the necessity of a holy and religious life ; to let their light so shine before men, that they may see their good works, and glorify their Father which is in Heaven*.

If this sacred and necessary consideration was happily more attended to, by those whose conduct and manners influence the public mind, and form the general character, we should behold a different Nation here ; should see the Sabbath less profaned, the highways would no longer exhibit, on that day hallowed by GOD, a scene of riot, dissipation, and excess ; Public-houses, instead of teeming more abundantly on that day with drunkenness and debauchery, would be empty and quiet ; our Churches would be filled, and the Ministers of the Gospel have an opportunity of discharging the functions of their office to the immediate benefit of Mankind, and the salvation of their Souls.

Our men would become more moral ; our women more virtuous ; our domestick comforts replete. And while on a Sunday's evening the wild Fanatick raved to the empty walls of his Conventicle, the fire-side of every private house would exhibit a happy scene of holy rest, and decent joy.

* Matthew v. 16.

For why a sailor should be less brave, or a soldier less valiant, because restrained from cursing and swearing, from impiety and blasphemy, and taught to worship his GOD, with a sober mind, is a thing difficult to understand; on the contrary, experience tells us, that our greatest Heroes have fought under the Banners of CHRIST; and our Christian Hero of this day, has, with becoming piety, made his only boast, in ascribing to GOD the glory and the praise of his valorous deeds*.

Or why, again, a tradesman, or an artificer should find less comfort in his home, or taste less sweet the earnings of his honest labor, because he had failed to profane the Sabbath, and dissipate a considerable portion of his maintenance, if not in riot and debauchery, at least in vanity and idleness, is hard to say.

These are propositions far more difficult to solve, than any of the mysterious doctrines of Christian Faith, and Christian Practice, which are the stumbling blocks of the Scepticks and Infidels of the day.

Indeed these are evils which call loud for the timely hand of Reform, ere they sap the vitals of Religion and National Virtue, and

* See Lord NELSON's publick Letter.

hurl us headlong from the rock on which we profess to build our hope, and rest our defence.

Impressed with the importance of this subject, I cannot quit it without obtruding one more application; let me then intreat your candour in addressing myself to that sex, formed by GOD to be the solace and the pride of man. And if the application should be made where the evil rages most, here in truth it must rest; but if the censure be severe, it bears its palliative within itself, for here too the remedy may be found.

There never was a Nation among whom the female sex enjoyed more liberty, or maintained more influence than in this; and never a time when they possessed these privileges in a greater degree, than in the present day.

Let me then, entreat them, to consider the nature of the ground they are placed on, and not to suppose their dominion and rule confined to trifles and external appearances; no, the charge entrusted to them, is of much more honorable import; of the first magnitude: it is they who form the minds, as well as the manners, of men.

As, from the Mother's breast, the tender infant imbibes its first
nourishment,

nourishment, and sustains the Principle of Life faintly vibrating within its helpless frame, so, in early childhood, the mind receives from her's its first impressions; and nourished into growth as years increase; strengthened, or obstructed as chance may be, by foreign aid and systematic training; it still blossoms from its stock, and in manhood's age the first fruits make known the tree.

If taught lightly to regard its GOD—if in the infancy of knowledge, a Newspaper, or a Novel has supplied the place of the sacred page; if some quaint passage, or pathetic narrative called forth the first efforts of memory and rehearsal; if the desire of applause, and the love of idle curiosity, have superseded the impressions of early Piety, then Scepticism and Infidelity are the Idols of riper years. Hence, want of honor, want of principle and moral virtue form the Libertine; misguided Reason points the way to worldly Wisdom; Conscience loses its restraining Power; the flimsy veil of personal accomplishment conceals the Monster, and he in turn is idolized.

Still, as life advances, your influence increases too; Affection then assumes a tenderer name; you claim the heart of Man; influence his actions, preside over his manners, and make him what he is.

No force of reasoning, nor all the laws that human wisdom can devise,

wife, could so effectually restrain the licentiousness of the times, or tend to make the manners of Men what they ought to be, as the commanding influence of a virtuous, moral, and good Woman. No Libertine would dare to boast his Shame ; no Fashion gild the nauseous cup of Vice ; if no Woman would applaud the deed.

Think then of your power and your influence, not with the vanity of female pride, but with that pious care which occupied the mind of MARY, when ministering to the Saviour of the world : and choose that good part which shall not be taken away from you* ; scorn to countenance or protect viciousness and immorality which it is in your power to expose and suppress ; so, may you continue to assert your high privilege as the Guardians of our Isle ; and our Countrymen, proud of your sway, become virtuous through your means, and wise in the sayings of their Saviour, shall stand firm on the Rock of Salvation, and bid defiance to the Powers of the World.

And, while under the Providence of GOD, the principles of Virtue, of Freedom, of Christian Knowledge, and of Christian Practice are born on the banners of Britain to the remotest corners of the earth, the names of her long extended list of Heroes, rich in their

* Luke x. 41, 42.

Country's love, and affluent in all that a grateful Nation can bestow,
shall improve the Zeal, animate the Courage, and inspire the Ar-
dour of her chosen Sons.

Now to GOD, &c.

FINIS.

9. 1A. 66

THE
ARCHBISHOP OF YORK'S
SERMON

PREACHED AT THE
CORONATION OF KING GEORGE IV.

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